

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic processing device, comprising:
 - (a) a user interface to interact with a user;
 - (b) location detection electronics;
 - (c) processing electronics connected to the user interface and the location detection electronics;
 - (d) memory to store a plurality of passwords associated with a plurality of geographic regions, the memory connected to the processing electronics;
 - (e) a gatekeeper to access the processing electronics when a password input on the user interface that is the same as a password in memory and when the location detection electronics inputs a present location to the processing electronics that is one of the plurality of geographic regions with which the input password is associated.

2. A method to establish a password in an electronic processing device,
comprising the steps of:
 - (a) invoking a user interface of the electronic processing device;
 - (b) entering a description of a first geographic location;
 - (c) creating a first password;
 - (d) associating the first password with the first geographic region;
 - (e) enabling a user to access information within the electronic device when the electronic device is in the first geographic region only when the first password is entered by the user.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of entering a description of a first geographic region further comprises:
 - (a) obtaining the GPS location from GPS processing electronics within the electronic processing device; and
 - (b) creating boundaries by extending a selected distance from the GPS location.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of entering a description of a first geographic region further comprises:
 - (a) delineating the boundaries of the first geographic region using a graphical user interface on a map containing the first geographic region.
5. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of entering a description of a first geographic region further comprises entering the longitude and latitude coordinates of the boundaries of the geographic region.
6. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of entering a description of a first geographic region further comprises entering a street address associated with a geographic region.

7. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

- (a) entering a description of a second geographic region;
- (b) creating a second password associated with the second geographic region.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

- (a) assigning a priority to the first and second geographic region.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

- (a) allowing the user to access the electronic processing device in the second region by entering the first password if the first geographic region is of higher and/or equal priority than the second geographic region and the electronic processing device is in an area of the second region overlapping an area of the first region.

10. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of creating a password further comprises:

- (a) inspecting the password to determine if it is valid according to password generation rules.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of creating the first password and the second password further comprises inspecting the first and second passwords to determine if they are valid according to password generation rules.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the password generation rules for the first password are different than the password generation rules for the second password.

1 13. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of enabling a user to access
2 information within the electronic device when the electronic device is
3 in the first geographic region only when the first password is entered
4 by the user, further comprises determining the present location of the
5 electronic device using GPS signals processed by GPS processing
6 electronics within the electronic device.

1 14. A method to restrict access to an electronic processing device,
2 comprising the steps of:
3 (a) invoking a user interface of the electronic processing device;
4 (b) determining the present location of the electronic device;
5 (c) entering a geographic-specific password;
6 (d) allowing access to the electronic processing device only when
7 the geographic-specific password is associated with the present
8 location of the electronic device.

1 15. A method to protect an electronic processing device from unauthorized
2 use, comprising the steps of:
3 (a) invoking a user interface of the electronic processing device;
4 (b) entering a description of at least one geographic location by a
5 method selected from the group of methods consisting of:
6 obtaining the GPS location from GPS processing electronics
7 within the electronic processing device and creating boundaries
8 by extending a selected distance from the GPS location,
9 delineating the boundaries of the first geographic region using a
10 graphical user interface on a map containing the first
11 geographic region, entering the longitude and latitude of the
12 boundaries of the geographic region, and entering a street
13 address associated with a geographic region;

- (c) creating at least one password;
- (d) associating each of the at least one password with one of the at least one geographic region;
- (e) determining the present location of the electronic processing device using GPS signals processed by GPS processing electronics within the electronic processing device;
- (f) assigning priority to the at least one geographic region;
- (g) allowing the user to use the electronic processing device in the at least one geographic region by entering the at least one password if the at least one geographic region is the geographic region associated with the at least one password or if the at least one password is associated with a geographic region of higher or equal priority that contains the at least one geographic region.

16. An article of manufacture, comprising a data storage medium tangibly embodying a program of machine readable instructions executable by an electronic processing apparatus to perform method steps for operating the electronic processing apparatus, said method steps comprising the steps of:
- (a) storing a plurality of descriptions of geographic regions;
 - (b) storing a plurality of passwords, each associated with one or more of the descriptions of geographic regions;
 - (c) assigning a priority to each of the plurality of descriptions of geographic regions;
 - (d) determining the present location of the electronic processing device; and
 - (e) allowing a user to use the electronic processing device in the present location by entering an input password if the present

15 location is within the description of the geographic region
16 associated with the input password.

- 1 17. A secure electronic processing device, comprising:
- 2 (a) means to store a plurality of descriptions of geographic locations
- 3 in which said secure electronic processing device may be used;
- 4 (b) means to store a plurality of geographic-specific passwords,
- 5 each of said passwords associated with each of said geographic
- 6 locations;
- 7 (c) means to determine the present location of said electronic
- 8 processing device;
- 9 (d) means to determine that said present location is one of said
- 10 geographic locations;
- 11 (e) means to request an input password from a user;
- 12 (f) means to allow access to the electronic processing device only if
- 13 said input password is one of said geographic-specific
- 14 passwords pertaining to said present location.

- 1 18. The secure electronic processing device of claim 17, wherein the
- 2 means to determine that said present location is one of said
- 3 geographic locations further comprises a GPS antenna and GPS
- 4 processing electronics.